


18 March 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Logistics

STAT FROM:

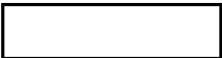
  
Chairman, Fine Arts Commission

SUBJECT: Lowered Ceiling in GE Corridor

1. In August 1981, in a memorandum to the Chief, Headquarters Engineering Branch, I expressed the concern of the Fine Arts Commission about the proposal to lower the ceilings in the corridors of the ground floor of Headquarters Building, commenting in particular about the ceiling in the corridor which serves the Northeast entrance. I understand that our observations were reflected in guidance provided by the Office of Logistics to GSA. In response to questions raised by work now in progress, however, I have been informed that GSA, overlooking instructions to the contrary, is proceeding with plans to lower the ceiling of GE corridor to eight feet.

2. The matter was discussed at the FAC meeting of 14 March and there was a strong consensus that we should not allow this work to proceed without an expression of protest. As we said in 1981, "a drastically lowered ceiling in this area would make a depressing, not to say menacing, impression upon individuals arriving through that entrance."

3. We understand that the increases in electrical and air handling services in the building necessitate increasing the space allocated for such purposes, and that some lowering of the ceiling in the GE corridor is probably inevitable. We urge you to do everything you can, however, to ensure that the change does the minimum possible damage to the appearance of that entrance corridor.

cc: DDA (info)  
C/OL/HEB  
OL/LSD (Attn: 




STAT

STAT  (18 March 1983)

Distribution:

Original - addressee

 - FAC Files

1 SEP 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Real Estate & Construction Division, OL

FROM:

[REDACTED]  
Chief, Headquarters Engineering Branch,  
RECD/OL

SUBJECT: Lowering Ceilings in Headquarters Building

1. The Agency was advised that GSA intended to lower ceilings in the Headquarters Building in a meeting on 7 February 1980 attended by representatives from both RECD and LSD. At that time, it appeared that this project would be designed in FY-80 and constructed in FY-81. For unknown reasons, but probably monetary, GSA has delayed this project until now. On 22 July 1981 I received a copy of a Scope of Work combining the ceiling lowering with the installation of an Economizer in the Powerplant. While my personnel are qualified to look at the mechanical and electrical portions of this scope, a copy of the scope was sent to ADS to review the architectural portion. ADS subsequently sent a copy to the Fine Arts Commission which prompted their suggestions.

2. The intent of this project has never been to lower ceilings to an uncomfortable level for personnel. The main areas on the first floor in this project are those subcorridors that are relatively narrow with high ceilings that would aesthetically improved with a lower ceiling. It is intended that no ceiling would be lowered to an unacceptable level as judged by Agency architects.

3. I hope the above clarifies some prior questions concerning this project. It is basically at the conceptional stage where the Agency's input and directions can be incorporated with no impact.

STAT

Attachment

STAT

Distribution:

Orig - Adse

1 - OL/RECD/HEB Official

1 - OL/RECD/HEB Chrono

1 - OL Reader


OL/RECD/ [REDACTED] (1 Sept 81)

STAT

1 SEP 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Fine Arts Commission

FROM:

  
Chief, Headquarters Engineering Branch,  
RECD/OL

SUBJECT: Lowered Ceilings in the Headquarters Building

REFERENCE: Memo for C/HEB/RECD/OL fr Chairman, FAC  
dtd 28 Aug 81, subj: Proposal to Lower  
Ceilings of Ground Floor Corridors

1. I appreciate your response and your suggestions on lowering the ceilings in the particular area in GE corridor. It is our intent to advise GSA that the ceiling should not be lowered in this area.

2. The project to lower the ceilings at the Headquarters Building is in its infant stages. GSA is gathering basic information it needs to task a designer with this project. As you may be aware, the initial GSA sketches indicated lowering ceilings in corridors that have not existed for several years. Preliminary discrepancies of this sort are quite natural when a proposed project is in its conceptual stage.

3. Again, I appreciate your response and will keep management advised as this project progresses.

Distribution:

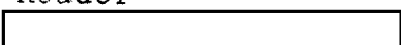
Orig - Adse

1 - OL/RECD/HEB Official

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OL 1 3669

OL/RECD/HEB  (1 Sept 81)

(C) DDA

D/OL

C/LSD/OL

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Lowering of Ceilings in Some Headquarters Building Corridors

FROM

EXTENSION

NO.

C/RECD/OL

DATE 2 September 1981

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

1.

D/L

2.

3.

In response to your note and question regarding [redacted] comments concerning a proposed GSA project to lower some corridor ceilings in the Headquarters Building, I asked [redacted] to prepare a short background paper on the project in response to your questions and a response [redacted] (as attached and yet to be released).

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8.

The thrust of the effort between HEB, ADS, and GSA was to determine a scope of work which would be utilized to establish a project which would then be designed by GSA's AGE. The objective was to lower ceilings in corridors to allow more space in congested ceilings for increasing amounts of required distribution systems, energy conservation, and elimination of very obviously poorly proportioned, high-volume-narrow-corridor space (of which there is much on the first floor).

9.

10.

11.

HEB & ADS made corrective comments on drawings to GSA early on in the interface with GSA. These comments excluded reducing the ceilings in corridors referred to [redacted]. Unfortunately, the subsequent set of drawings sent by GSA for approval did not include our changes and were also incorrect due to the use of obsolete building drawings. These obsolete and corrected drawings were the basis upon which [redacted] commented as Chief, Fine Arts Committee. This was unfortunate.

12.

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15.

However, our attached memo [redacted] clarifies the issue and indicates the scope of work is in its infancy and yet to be formalized. Our joint RECD/LSO comments back to GSA will eliminate again these obvious errors. A number of corridors should, however, be reduced in ceiling height in very obvious locations. I would be very happy to show you some of these conditions on a tour at your convenience. In early 1980, [redacted] and I walked through some of the corridors needing correction which led to our corrective comments to GSA along with those from LSD. [redacted] and I seem to recall bringing this subject up at a Thursday morning meeting at that time.

FORM 1-79 610 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

C/RECD

STAT

R E C I

26 AUG 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Headquarters Engineering Branch, OL

FROM:

Chairman, Fine Arts Commission

SUBJECT:

Proposal to Lower Ceilings of Ground Floor  
Corridors

/C [ ]  
 DC [ ]  
 EX [ ]  
 SA [ ]  
 C/REB [ ]  
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 C/FEGB [ ]  
 PE [ ]  
 (2) C/HEB *Action*  
 PE [ ]  
 FILE [ ]  
 31 AUG 1981

It has been brought to my attention that there are plans to lower the ceilings in most of the corridors on the ground floor of Headquarters Building. Presumably the anticipated economies in heating and air-conditioning are expected to offset the cost of this effort. On behalf of the Fine Arts Commission I would like to make two suggestions.

- a. The broad corridor leading from the northeast entrance to the junction of E and F corridors is one of the principal public entrances to the building. A drastically lowered ceiling in this area would make a depressing, not to say menacing, impression upon individuals arriving through that entrance. We strongly recommend that this thoroughfare be left with its present reasonably high ceiling.
- b. The GE corridor provides two examples of already lowered ceilings. Near G corridor, the part which has been lowered to just over seven feet gives one a sense of near claustrophobic crowding, particularly from the lights which project an additional four inches from the extremely low ceiling. Toward F corridor, the section of ceiling which has been dropped only one foot or so does not give the same impression. We hope that the latter installation will be the model for the work to be done in the other corridors.

cc: DDA  
 15/OL  
 C/LSD/OL

OL 1 3630